

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 125303
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO:CMM
APPROVED BY ARA/AND:MRBARNEBEY
AA/LA - MR. COY
LA/SA -MR. WEBER

-----002949 171831Z /43

R 171621Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EC

SUBJECT: AID PROGRAM FOR ECUADOR

1. ON MAY 16 ECUADOREAN MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, COMMERCE,
AND INTEGRATION MONTANO, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR YCAZA,
MET WITH AID DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR COY. THE GIST
OF THE CONVERSATION FOLLOWS.

2. MONTANO SAID THAT THE GOE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN SEEING
A REACTIVATION OF THE AID PROGRAM IN ECUADOR. HE ADDED
THAT HE HAD MET WITH 16 CONGRESSMEN ON MAY 15, WHO WERE
SYMPATHETIC ON THIS ISSUE. HE CONTINUED BY STATING HIS
OWN VIEWS ON ECUADOR'S NEEDS:

A. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

MONTANO WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN EXCHANGE OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
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AND PROFESSORS BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE U.S. HE NOTED THAT
HE HAD JUST VISITED THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT DAVIS
(HIS ALMA MATER), WHERE HIS IDEA WAS WELCOMED, AND WHERE
HE FOUND IDEAS FOR PROJECTS.

B. DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL INDUSTRIES

MONTANO WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE HANDICRAFT INDUSTRY HELPED. HE STATED THAT OF THE 330,000 ECUADOREAN FAMILIES THAT HAVE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WORKING IN AN INDUSTRY, 230,000 ARE EMPLOYED BY THE HANDICRAFTS INDUSTRY. THEREFORE, HE BELIEVES THERE WOULD BE AN IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT FROM STIMULATION OF THE HANDICRAFTS INDUSTRY, WHICH JUSTIFIES SOFT LOANS.

3. COY REPLIED THAT AID DID NOT HAVE MUCH MONEY FOR LATIN AMERICA THESE DAYS, BUT THAT AID'S REPRESENTATIVE IN ECUADOR WAS STUDYING POSSIBLE PROJECTS. HE MENTIONED THE UPCOMING TITLE XII BASELINE STUDY AND ITS ROLE IN ESTABLISHING THE BASIS FOR PROJECTS IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. COY NOTED THAT CONGRESS HAD DIRECTED AID TO CONCENTRATE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS, WHICH LEAVES LITTLE MONEY FOR HANDICRAFT DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO NOTED THE CONSTANT BATTLE THESE DAYS FOR SOFT-LOAN MONEY, STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE THE BATTLE WOULD END, BUT OPINED THAT LESS THAN COMMERCIAL-TERMS DID MAKE SENSE FOR SUCH PROJECTS EVEN IF THE SOFTEST OF TERMS WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

4. COY ALSO NOTED THAT AID IS SEEKING JOB-CREATION PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS, SO MANY OF MONTANO'S IDEAS MAKE SENSE. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT AID WOULD ASK ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN ECUADOR, MR. SCONCE, TO REQUEST AN UNCLASSIFIED

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APPOINTMENT WITH MONTANO TO PURSUE THE MINISTER'S IDEAS. MONTANO STATED THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE MR. SCONCE. VANCE

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